CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize policy-

2 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   a first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element of the

4 communications network that ~~identifies~~ performs identification of policy-enabled

5 resources that are available and allocates requested policy-enabled resources to

6 services;

7   a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the

8 communications network that makes requests, from available policy-enabled

9 resources, of any policy-enabled resources within a first domain required to

10 establish a particular service, the requests from the available policy-enabled

11 resources being separate from the identification of the policy-enabled resources; and

12   a first resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes ~~provisions, to a~~ the

13 particular service ~~being established,~~ and provisions the policy-enabled resources

14 allocated to ~~that~~ the particular service, said first resource policy layer including a

15 first policy ~~description protocol~~ decision point (PDP), wherein:

16   said first NRC <u>acts as a trusted entity that</u> initiates <u>an</u> association

17   between said first PEP and said first PDP,

18   said first PDP provides said first PEP with a~~policy~~ <u>policies</u> upon

19   establishment of said association between said first PEP and first PDP, and

20   when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside

21   the first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said

22   second domain, which <u>acts as the trusted entity that</u> initiates <u>an</u> association

23   between a second PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said first

24   PDP providing said second PEP with a~~policy~~ <u>the policies</u> upon establishment

25   of said association between said second PEP and said first PDP~~, whereby~~

26   ~~there is a decoupling of policy management from the management of policy~~

27   ~~enabled resources~~.

1   2.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said

2   first PEP comprises a plurality of virtual PEPs, each virtual PEP being associated

3   to a respective service.

1   3-5.   (Canceled)

1   6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the

2   apparatus further comprises<u>:</u>

3   a second RPL associated with ~~a~~ the second domain comprising ~~a~~ the second

4   PEP.

1   7.   (Canceled)

1   8.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein resource

2   capability information descriptors are used for resource discovery and policy

3   provisioning.

1   9.   (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-

2   enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   identifying, at a first policy enforcement point (PEP), policy-enabled

4   resources within a first domain that are available and allocating requested policy-

5   enabled resources to services;

6   requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network

7   resource controller (NRC) any policy-enabled resources required to establish a

8   particular service, the requesting step being separate from the identifying step;

9   establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);

10   and

11   provisioning, to ~~a~~ the established service ~~being established at a first resource~~

12   ~~policy layer (RPL)~~, the policy-enabled resources allocated to ~~that~~ the established

13   service, said first resource policy layer including ~~at least one~~ a first policy

14   ~~description protocol~~ decision point (PDP), wherein:

15   said first NRC acts as a trusted entity that initiates an association between

16   said first PEP and said first PDP,

17   said first PDP provides said first PEP with ~~a policy~~ policies upon

18   establishment of said association between said first PEP and said first PDP, and

19   when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside the

20   first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said second

21   domain, which acts as the trusted entity that initiates an association between a

22   second PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said first PDP providing said

23   second PEP with ~~a policy~~ the policies upon establishment of said association

24   between said second PEP and said first PDP~~, whereby there is a decoupling of policy~~

25   ~~management from the management of policy-enabled resources~~.

1   10.   (Canceled)

1   11.   (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein virtual

2   PEPs of ~~a main~~ the first PEP are provisioned to provide resource services.

1   12.   (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein the

2   virtual PEPs are provisioned to provide services in said second domain.

1   13.   (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said first

2   PEP and said second PEP are provisioned with the same service by said first PDP.

1   14-16. (Canceled)

1   17.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the first

2   PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for said a

3   particular service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

1   18.   (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the first

2   PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for said a

3   particular service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize

2   policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the

4   communications network, said first NRC requesting, from available policy-enabled

5   resources, any policy-enabled resources required to establish a particular service;

6   a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element

7   of the communications network that is created upon requesting the particular

8 service, said virtual PEP identifying policy-enabled resources that are available and

9 allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10 a resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes the particular service and

11 includes including a policy description protocol decision point (PDP), wherein the

12 virtual PEP is provided with information to contact the PDP of the RPL in order to

13 provision the policy-enabled resources allocated to the particular service.

1 20.   (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-

2 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network

4 resource controller (NRC), any policy-enabled resources required to establish a

5 particular service;

6 creating a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) upon requesting the

7 particular service;

8 identifying, at the virtual PEP, policy-enabled resources that are available

9 and allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10 providing the virtual PEP with information to contact a policy description

11 protocol decision point (PDP) of a resource policy layer (RPL);

12 establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);

13 and

14   provisioning, to the ~~particular~~ established service ~~being established at the~~

15   ~~resource policy layer (RPL)~~, the policy-enabled resources allocated to the particular

16   service.